

January 16, 2017

# WHAT'S HAPPENING

A newsletter for the Maine Medical Center family

## Maine Medical Center Awarded \$2.6 Million to Study Optimal Treatment for Stroke Patients

MMC has been awarded \$2.6 million by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI) to study whether early tracheostomy in severely ill stroke patients who require mechanical ventilation improves survival, recovery and the patient and family experience.

A tracheostomy is a temporary surgical airway that provides a more comfortable alternative for delivering oxygen to the lungs when a stroke patient's breathing

has failed.

The research study will be led by David Seder, M.D., Director of MMC's Neurocritical Care team and a principal investigator at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute.

Prior studies have suggested that when patients whose breathing has failed after a severe stroke undergo tracheostomy early in the course of their recovery, the

*Continued on back*



*David Seder, M.D., Director of MMC's Neurocritical Care team and a principal investigator at the Maine Medical Center Research Institute, will lead the study.*



*Employees can still get a flu vaccine. Call Employee Health, 662-4011, to make an appointment.*

## Flu Masking Is In Effect

Flu is on the rise in Maine, and our Epidemiology and Infection Prevention team has confirmed cases of influenza at the hospital. MMC is taking extra precautions to protect the health of patients and employees. All employees should follow these guidelines:

- Masking is in effect. **If you are not vaccinated against influenza, you must wear a surgical mask whenever you are within six feet of a patient.** This includes times of direct contact.
- Always follow proper hand hygiene and cough etiquette.
- If you are experiencing cold-like symptoms, regardless of your influenza immunization status, you must mask.
- If you have a fever, stay home.

*Always follow these guidelines, and speak with your manager if you have any concerns.*

# Nursing Excellence Awards Nominations

**Deadline: March 1**

Nominations for the 2017 Nursing Excellence Awards  
are now being accepted.

Guidelines and criteria are on the Nursing page of the MMC Intranet.

*Maine Medical Center  
Awarded \$2.6 Million'  
from front*

risks of pneumonia and other complications that can lead to a prolonged hospital stay and death are lower.

However, the common practice in many hospitals is to delay the tracheostomy procedure for up to three weeks, in case the patient recovers airway protective reflexes.

“This research study tests whether a reversible tracheostomy in patients with respiratory failure after stroke, performed earlier than is currently standard practice, results in shorter duration of coma, earlier rehab activities, shorter duration of mechanical ventilation, improved survival and improved long-term functional outcomes,” said Dr. Seder. “If successful, the trial could change the way such patients are treated worldwide, and has the potential

to dramatically improve the outcomes of the sickest stroke patients.”

He continued, “The study will also assess other potential benefits of the early intervention such as a shortened duration of coma, improved patient comfort and a better ability to communicate with the patient.”

The study, called *SET-POINT2: A Pragmatic Trial to Test the Effectiveness of Early vs. Delayed Percutaneous Tracheostomy in Patients with Severe Stroke and Respiratory Failure*, is a collaboration between MMC, the University of Heidelberg and the Neurocritical Care Society Research Network (NCSRN).

Dr. Seder is partnering with the Maine Medical Center Research Institute (MMCRI) and MMC’s Neuroscience Institute on the study. PCORI also considers patients, families, and other key stakeholders to be key collaborators in the re-

search process. The US SETPOINT2 research advisory committee will include MMC Chaplain Alice Hildebrandt, MMC stroke survivor family member Danielle Phinney, a representative of the American Heart Association/American Stroke Association and several others.

“Maine Medical Center and its Research Institute are proud to be named as the U.S. coordinating center for the \$2.6 million SET-POINT 2 clinical trial. This multi-site, international research project is designed to test the most effective method of providing respiratory support to critically ill stroke patients in an intensive care unit setting,” said Donald St. Germain, M.D., Vice President, Research, MMC and Director, MMCRI. “The results of this project will define a critically important set of standards to guide the care of severely ill stroke patients. It represents the dedicated efforts of highly skilled critical care teams

around the world and the commitment and support of MMC, its collaborating institutions and PCORI to provide the best care possible for patients suffering from stroke.”

Dr. Seder’s award has been approved pending completion of a business and programmatic review by PCORI staff and issuance of a formal award contract.

“This project was selected for PCORI funding not only for its scientific merit and commitment to engaging patients and other stakeholders, but also for its potential to fill an important gap in our health knowledge and give people information to help them weigh the effectiveness of their care options,” said PCORI Executive Director Joe Selby, M.D., MPH. “We look forward to following the study’s progress and working with Maine Medical Center to share the results.”



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